

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Friday, July 9, 2004, the House had a vote on an amendment to H.R. 3578, that would have established a Manufacturing & Technology Administration within the Commerce Department. On House rollcall vote No. 357, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING SANDRA FELDMAN ON
HER RETIREMENT FROM THE
PRESIDENCY OF THE AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the life, career and passion of Sandra Feldman, who history will record as being one of the greatest leaders of public education in the United States. Ms. Feldman is herself a testament of the public education system. She culminated a career in education by being elected to lead the largest teacher's union in the country, the American Federation of Teachers. Today this Congress recognizes Sandra Feldman for her tireless efforts to improve public education for all of our children.

Ms. Feldman, began her life in Brooklyn, New York as a student in the New York City public school system. She recognized early that education was a way out of the poverty she grew up in. Ms. Feldman lived in a duplex building with four families—her family consisting of five members alone. She lived in the toughest imaginable situation, but she persevered.

After graduating from James Madison High School she excelled at Brooklyn College and continued with her academic career at New York University. She definitely proved herself to be quite the student, and then challenged herself to meet the challenge of educating and shaping young lives through becoming a teacher. She taught at Public School 34 in Manhattan. In her early days as a young teacher, did she dream that she would one day achieve the presidency of the largest teacher's union in the nation?

As Sandra began her lifelong career as an advocate for disadvantaged youth in education, she participated in the great civil rights movement of the 1960's, by partaking in the freedom rides and being arrested. As a teacher she became active in the union and tirelessly worked for the children of New York. She gained notice because she was clearly the best advocate for disadvantaged students.

In 1966 she became involved as a field representative for the United Federation of Teachers (UFT). She was repeatedly promoted to become the Executive Director of the UFT. As executive director she oversaw all of the union's activities.

She was elected president of the UFT in 1986. She served honorably as president for over a decade until she was elected as presi-

dent of the American Federation of Teachers in 1997.

Sandra Feldman now steps down from that post. She served as the 15th president of the union and the first woman since 1930. Her career as president was marked with innumerable successes. She is regarded as the pre-eminent authority on urban education and disadvantaged youth. Ms. Feldman has served on a plethora of committees and on the board of countless organizations. She has been recognized by magazines as one of the "most influential women," in the country. She is certainly the most influential educator in the Nation.

I regret Sandra's departure from the presidency of the American Federation of Teachers, although she deserves a rest from her endless labors. She has certainly left an indelible mark on public education in this Nation during her superb service to our youth.

In addition to noting her successful career as a teacher, and unprecedented leadership of the American Federation of Teachers union I would like to extend my support and well wishes to this remarkable woman as she battles her illness. I wish her a speedy recovery.

There are no words adequate to express the gratitude I have for Sandra Feldman for her service and my regard for the contributions she has made.

I rise today and call on my colleagues to support House Resolution 714, to recognize Sandra Feldman for her tireless dedication to improving education for our children.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL
CHRISTOPHER M. SHEA

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of a brave young Delaware State Police officer, Corporal Christopher M. Shea. Corporal Shea was a proud and talented state trooper who died early Sunday morning after his patrol car was struck head-on by another vehicle.

A Marine Corps veteran and an extremely dedicated state trooper, Shea was Delaware's 33rd officer to die in the line of duty. At just 31 years of age, Shea had already distinguished himself as an intelligent and courageous public servant, with a true love of police work. As a four-year veteran of the State Police, assigned to patrol out of Troop 7 in Lewes, Shea served our State honorably. The fact that Shea was promoted to Corporal, only days before his death, is evidence of this bright young man's unlimited potential.

In addition to being a tremendous officer, Shea was also a thoughtful son, devoted husband and loving father. Born the second of eight children, Shea grew up in New Jersey where he attended Farleigh Dickinson College. After meeting his wife, Susan, the Sheas eventually moved to Delaware, where they had two wonderful children, Christopher Jr., 3½, and Elizabeth, 11 months.

While remembering their fallen comrade, Shea's fellow officers reflected on the trooper's ability to balance his commitment to police work with his unwavering devotion to family. Described as a talented and compassionate

individual, Corporal Shea was a tremendous asset to our law enforcement community and he will be truly missed by his family, friends, and fellow officers.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere privilege to honor the life of a proud state trooper and heroic representative of the State of Delaware. Corporal Christopher M. Shea was an honorable defender of justice, and he deserves our deepest gratitude and respect.

APPLAUD THE CHENANGO RIVER
WORKCAMP

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the efforts of the Chenango River Workcamp in Greene, NY. The Chenango River Workcamp is comprised of young students from across the Nation. This faith-based group of youngsters has dedicated a good portion of their summer to help the Chenango Housing Council rebuild and rehabilitate 61 homes for senior citizens and low-income families who might otherwise not benefit from these repairs.

This group of 450 young students has selflessly put the needs of others first and I am proud of their commitment to community and those in need. This leadership sets an excellent example to other youngsters and provides a shining ray of hope for our future. On behalf of my constituents in Upstate New York and all of the areas of the Nation these exceptional students are from, thank you.

INTRODUCTION FOR MS. THOMAS'
RESEARCH ANALYSIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw your attention to the recently announced approval by the Federal Government for a California biotechnology firm to license three experimental drugs from Cuba. This decision is especially interesting in the light of the fact that the administration also recently unveiled new measures to further tighten Cuban embargo restrictions. The contradictory actions of this administration, combined with a continued focus on maintaining an embargo that has done nothing to change the status of the Castro regime, reveal a profound lack of interest in truly improving the lives of average Cuban citizens. What is really at stake is President Bush's electoral votes in Florida this November, rather than an ethical and constructive approach to U.S.-Cuba relations. These new embargo restrictions deserve to be reexamined in terms of whether they are necessary to United States-Cuban policy and whether they may, in fact, worsen already unnecessarily tense relations with Cuba, as well as lead to counter productive reactions on the island.

I urge my colleagues to read the following research analysis on the increasingly unproductive United States policy toward Cuba that was recently authored by Lindsay Thomas, a

research associate at the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs:

The mammoth street demonstration witnessed in Havana on June 21 was a glaring example of yet another counter-productive, anti-Castro initiative fathered by Washington policymakers. The latter may be long on raw ideology, but demonstrably, are short on reality. On that day, tens of thousands of Cubans gathered in front of the U.S. Interests Section (the official U.S. presence in Havana) to warn Washington against resorting to any preemptive military action against the island.

The Bush administration, following the practice of all of its predecessors, has maintained a cordon sanitaire around Cuba, but ended up having to waive the penalties against the international business community mandated by the ill-reputed Helms-Burton legislation. Nor is the U.S. winning many backers with its patently self-serving Florida electoral strategy masked as a foreign policy. The Bush administration has been so obsessed with wooing Miami, that it has fallen victim to its own immoderacy, recently cutting remittances and limiting packages and visits from exiles to their Cuban relatives. By its cut offs, the White House has displayed the same venomous lack of humanity and blind fury that was seen with the Elian Gonzalez affair. Now, even many of those being wooed—Cuban expatriates—are lashing back at Bush for daring to curb family ties in a craven hunt for votes.

By a series of malevolent initiatives specifically aimed at worsening U.S.-Cuban relations, Secretary of State Colin Powell invoked the latest phase of a foreign policy drive whose anointed mission was to place Florida into President Bush's win column in November, even though such a demarche could mortally wound his already fading reputation on regime issues. The motivation for such a sterile approach was prompted not so much by any genuine threat posed by Cuba to any conceivable U.S. regional security interests, but almost entirely by domestic political factors. The predictable Castro response: defiance in the form of the June 21 demonstration, which provided yet another opportunity for the Cuban leader to return to his popular base to seek reaffirmation in a spectacular show of political thunder. But the question remains, when will Washington realize that attempting to isolate Cuba internationally and pressuring it internally at best will only fail or induce more Cubans to attempt immigrating to the U.S.—something that U.S. officials aren't particularly anxious to encourage.

Despite its specious claim of "hastening democracy on the island," arguably, the Bush administration's latest policies do the opposite—purposely escalating U.S.-Cuban tensions while further legitimizing Castro in the eyes of many islanders. President Bush's mean and nasty acts serve to undermine his professed lofty intentions, as they confirm Cuba's role as a David daring to stand up to Goliath's benighted outrages. For almost half a century the U.S. has attempted to isolate Castro's Cuba, even though predictably, these initiatives have always backfired. In reality, it is Washington's Cuba policy that has ended in the dock, not Cuba, with only dependent states like Chile and Costa Rica cheering Washington onward.

Meanwhile, for 12 years the U.N. has voted overwhelmingly to end the U.S. embargo that is almost solely honored by this country. With decades of converting "democracy" rhetoric into self-serving demagoguery aimed at asphyxiating the Cuban economy and immiserating its population, Washington's relations with Havana remain non-negotiable, beyond the purview of the construc-

tive engagement now routinely employed toward Libya, North Korea, Vietnam and China.

Nor would Castro's death instantly transform Washington's embargo strategy into a success story. In fact, it might only underline that the U.S. fomented the deterioration of Cuban society while it bided its time for the right moment to initiate yet another intrusion into the internal affairs of a hemispheric nation. Clearly, neither Castro nor any other likely successor has indicated any intention to fall on their sword to guarantee another Bush term. Meanwhile Washington's thinking by now is so petrified that it is incapable of moving past its Cold War strategy of continually escalating threats and bringing distress upon an innocent population, to encourage what it disingenuously calls "democratic change."

CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD IN SCHOOLS TO HUNGRY OR MALNOURISHED CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to discuss an issue that is one of my top legislative priorities, the importance of food distribution in schools to hungry or malnourished children around the world. This bill passed the Senate June 3, 2004, and I hope that we in the House of Representatives can expedite its passage today as well.

As chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, it continues to trouble me that there are more than 300,000,000 chronically hungry and malnourished children in the world. More than half of these children go to school on an empty stomach, and almost as many do not attend school at all, but might if food were available.

Distributing food in schools is one of the simplest and most effective strategies to fight hunger and malnourishment among children. When school meals are offered to hungry or malnourished children, attendance rates increase significantly, particularly for girls.

Improving the quality and access to education for girls is one of the most important factors in reducing child malnutrition in developing countries. Girls who attend schools tend to marry later in life and have fewer children, thereby helping them escape a life of poverty.

At a time when we are trying to encourage many countries to adopt educational infrastructure to lay the groundwork for teaching democratic ideals, we must be more attuned to the barriers preventing children from attending school. Distributing food in schools has been correlated to better school attendance.

We must continue to work to improve the literacy rates and increase job opportunities. Education addresses several of the root causes of terrorism, and we can do something to impact it right now. The distribution of food in schools increases attendance of children who might otherwise be susceptible to recruitment by groups that offer them food in return for their attendance at extremist schools or participation in terrorist training camps.

It is my hope that our President will work with the United Nations and its member states to expand international contributions for the distribution of food in schools around the world.

HONORING CITY OF NOVI POLICE DEPARTMENT ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the City of Novi Police Department as we celebrate the department's 50th Anniversary.

The men and women who protect the Novi community have a long and distinguished record.

In 1954, the Oakland County Sheriff's Department had been patrolling the small farming community of Novi, and protecting its approximately 5,000 residents. As the community grew, the Board of Trustees worked to establish their own force.

The Department's first chief, Lee BeGole, a member of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and World War II U.S. Army veteran, organized the fledgling organization. BeGole served alone initially, adding three or four officers later on. He was a dedicated law enforcement officer who served the City of Novi for 32 years.

During its early years, the Novi Police Department served the community by making the most of its meager means. With a pair of police cars and no police radios, the operation of the Department was very basic. Police equipment was very basic, too. The officers furnished their own firearms and paid for their uniforms. The patrol cars did not have overhead emergency lights, but rather were equipped with red or blue spotlights and a "coaster siren" under the hood.

The size and scope of the department has increased greatly over the past half century. In 1991 Chief BeGole retired and Douglas F. Shaeffer became the second Chief of Police in Novi's history. The Department moved into the 21st Century—the 1968 Rambler with the single red/blue roof light and coaster siren has been replaced by a large fleet of the latest police package Ford Crown Victorias, equipped with multifunction electronic emergency lights and siren. The old faithful police revolvers have been replaced by the newest in semi-automatic Glock pistols. Laptop computers are installed in each patrol unit, and a new in-house data system at the station has taken over most of the hand-written reports and forms used daily.

Today, the City of Novi Police Department is truly a world-class law enforcement organization led by outstanding men and women who are committed to providing the community with the highest caliber service and protection.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask you and my esteemed colleagues to please join me in congratulating Chief Doug Shaeffer, the men and women of the Novi Police Department, and the elected officials and citizens of Novi for their support of 50 years of excellence in law enforcement.